

MENLO PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of VIRTUAL meeting

because of COVID-19

March 11, 2021

ITEM	ACTIONS
<p>Board Members present (menloparktucson@gmail.com)</p>	<p>Zach Yentzer-President, Wendy Sterner-Vice President, Raul Ramirez-Vice President, Isabel Doe-Treasurer, Liza M. Grant-Secretary, Steve Brown-Parliamentarian, Matt Perri-Historian, Anthony Nelson-newly appointed</p>
<p>Introductions</p>	<p>Board members were introduced to the attendees via ZOOM meeting platform. There were 22 neighbors in attendance. Guests included Lt. Morales from TPD, Adelita Grijalva and Keith Bagwell from Pima County Board of Supervisors District 5 office, Flor Burruel from Ward 1 and Ben Wilder, Director of The Desert Laboratory of Tumamoc Hill.</p>
<p>February 2021 Minutes</p>	<p>Motion to accept was made by Wendy and seconded by Isabel to accept the February minutes which were approved unanimously.</p>
<p>Treasurer’s Report—Isabel Doe</p>	<p>\$926.06 balance in bank account. Danny was given \$119.88 for updating the website.</p>
<p>TPD Report and Community Feedback—graffiti/break-ins, changes in service—Lt. Belinda Morales</p>	<p>Lt. Morales reported there have been 3 larcenies, 4 burglaries, and one auto theft in the last month. She stressed the importance of locking your vehicle and using outdoor lights. Lights are one of the biggest deterrents.</p> <p>Lt. Morales also commented on the concerns of reports that TPD will no longer respond to specific calls since they are short-staffed. She reported that the no-response calls include calls that are primarily Medical, Transportation, and Mental Health in nature. TPD will no longer respond to reports of loud music. She informed us that Chief Magnus and the City Manager promised there would not be any interruption in service until there was an interim plan for coverage in place. There is active search for resources and recruiting of officers and volunteers.</p> <p>Speed trailers were placed on Bonita from Alameda to Congress. There has been an increase in drag racing on Greasewood, from Anklam to speedway. Loud exhaust and excessive speed should be reported to TPD. A Mountain will be targeted with a “zero tolerance” policy for excessive speed and noise. There will an officer that will go door-to-door. Education will be the primary focus at this point. Lt. Morales encouraged neighbors to report any concerns on-line as well to provide the Ward 1 office with feedback. TPD will accept texts, emails, encouraging pictures and footage from security systems like Ring.</p> <p>Graffiti has been committed by a single person throughout the city who started on the westside. Report graffiti online and then notify Zach or Lt. Morales. You can utilize the My Tucson app to report it as well with a picture in order to geo-locate the graffiti.</p> <p>Lt. Belinda Morales Operations Division West, (520) 837-7203, (520) 589-8487, belinda.morales@tucsonaz.gov.</p> <p>-Steve provided an article for reference: https://kvoa.com/news/digging-deeper/2021/03/10/digging-deeper-tpd-will-no-longer-respond-to-certain-calls-due-to-staffing/</p> <p>-Diana voiced concern that mail has been stolen often, from 3-4 households on South Grande.</p>
<p>District 5 “Meet and Greet” — Supervisor Grijalva and office District5@pima.gov</p>	<p>-Keith Bagwell was introduced as MPNA’s representative from Pima County Board of Supervisors District 5 office by Adelita Grijalva.</p> <p>-Keith can be reached at 724-8723, Keith.Bagwell@pima.gov</p> <p>-She reported that the Pima County Health Department has increased vaccine eligibility off to those who are 55 yrs and older and all essential employees. Info on registering for vaccines can be found at: www.pima.gov/covid19vaccine Pima County Health Department’s registration</p>

	<p>support line at 520-222-0119, Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturday – Sunday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p>-The UA (State) and private pharmacies have different criteria. State supported vaccination site, visit Arizona Department of Health Service portal to schedule an appointment, https://podvaccine.azdhs.gov/</p> <p>-Pima County is now undergoing the budget process. Each department is being visited to assess needs.</p> <p>-There are 3 new TUSD members. March 22 marks the timeline of when school will be back to in-person and all medically trained personnel will be vaccinated. There will be antigen testing for those 3 yrs and up with results in 15-30 minutes. HEPA air filters will be installed. Re-usable face shields and N-95 masks will be furnished to staff.</p> <p>-Vaccine site at El Rio is for El Rio patients. There will be pop-up vaccine sites in areas that have high virus spread and a low vaccination history.</p> <p>-The one dose J and J vaccine is most helpful to the homeless population.</p> <p>-There is concern that the eviction moratorium will end. However, there is a plan to provide attorneys at an hourly rate to protect against frivolous evictions which will be finalized at the next Board meeting. Pima County has funding for 4,300 applications with processing of 400 a week. Eviction judges will have to go through special training and perhaps there will be “an eviction court”.</p> <p>-Kylie reported that a rapid rehousing program that is available from Our Family Services that can provide 1st month, last month, deposits, and hotel stays.</p> <p>-Concern was voiced about the amount of affordable housing being lost and businesses as well losing properties/closing.</p> <p>-Trash that collects along the river (river path from Congress to St. Mary’s) and near the Freeway should be a partnership between the City and the County. Keith offered to be contacted; perhaps a community clean up can be organized.</p>
Westmoreland Affordable Housing Update	<p>Isabel and Armando spearheaded the survey for the project which yielded the return of 15 physical surveys, with 60-80 responses that seem to favor single family housing. Jeremiah will report the results. Ward 1 and Flor will be notified for a neighborhood meeting.</p>
President’s Report	<p>Zach reported that the updates are the same ones that were presented at the last meeting. There is a concern about what TPD will do to maintain public safety as there are police shortages and response time is increasing and response actions are being cut. There was discussion as to what may be done to keep officers at TPD. If anyone has thoughts regarding this action by TPD or feel that perhaps a letter should be written to TPD please contact Zach.</p> <p>Now is the time to take advantage of the virtual Budget Townhalls that are being held by the City of Tucson. The townhall for Public Safety will be held on Saturday, 03-27-21 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM</p>
Neighborhood Plan Update-Wendy Sterner	<p>Wendy reported that Lyssa who assisted with the Vitalyst grant will be available to assist the neighborhood and the consultants with community engagement. wendysterner@gmail.com</p>
Tumamoc Hill Update-Ben Wilder	<p>Ben reported that there will be changes at the base of the hill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There will be a new garden project to address the question of “How do we live in a hotter and dryer future.” There will be shade houses in the garden (Last Sunday’s paper had a gardening rendering.) -The shrine will be preserved. -The dilapidated houses were demolished this week. -The Sykes House will work for the lab. -The Boat House, constructed in 1910 of volcanic rock, will be refurbished to become a gallery and used for outreach. -The parking lot will be used as a community-gathering space -Ben Wilder is asking the neighborhood “how to tell the stories.” bwilder@arizona.edu

	<p>-Adelita/Ben commented on recent interaction with Chairman Norris since Tumamoc is an ancestral site: It was agreed to protect the sites not being used. An effort to protect the land and artifacts will be made since >1,000 people a day use the hill. Good stewardship will be cultivated, and a community connection maintained. The stewardship training began with 30 people and only 2 have dropped out!</p>
Call to Audience/Announcements	<p>-Kylie reported that there is support for an initiative for the City of Tucson to raise the minimum wage to \$15.00 and hour within 4 years in order to decrease crime. The Coalition of Non-profit Organizations will have a petition signing event on Sunday from 12:00PM to 6:PM on the corner of Fresno and Grande at Menlo Park. Information on the minimum wage campaign at https://tucsonfightfor15.com/</p> <p>-Wendy announced: Silvercroft Wash clean up, sponsored by Menlo Home and Garden -W. Anklam Rd & N. Camino Santiago (near Tumamoc Hill) -Sunday, March 21st, from 9 – 11 am -City of Tucson will be supplying everything for the clean up -Contact Addison to sign up: 520-447-0584 or stop by the store, SE corner of Congress & Grande</p> <p>-Steve “made a pitch” for Lydia Otero’s book, who is a Menlo Park neighbor, which is archived at Tucson Festival of Books’ website. Get in touch with Steve and he can send the link for the Festival. You can get the book at https://www.amazon.com/Shadows-Freeway-Growing-Brown-Queer/dp/1734118008 or buy it from Why I Love Where I Live, or Petroglyphs, at the Mercado Annex.</p> <p>-Flor, from Ward 1 office, expressed her gratitude for being invited to the MPNA meeting, stating that it was a very orderly meeting. Luz.espinoza-burruel@tucsonaz.gov</p> <p>-Liza asked when we might be ready to meet at the Menlo Park Elementary School, with COVID-19 safety protocol in place. A consensus was reached that a meeting may take place there in April or May, and perhaps in the patio for ventilation purposes.</p>
Meeting Adjourned	<p>Diana moved and Isabel seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM which was unanimously approved.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>April 8, 2021 via Zoom (link will be sent out) because of COVID-19 safety concerns, unless safe arrangements can be made to meet at Menlo Park Elementary School.</p>